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ABSTRACT

The three papers in this collection were presented during the meeting of the Section on Research and Theory. In the first paper, "BIEF: A North-South Knowledge Transfer Tool," Suzanne Richer examines the vital importance of scientific and technical information (STI) for developing countries, and notes that BIEF (Banque internationale d'Information sur les Etats francophones) is one tool dedicated to the transfer of knowledge which will enable countries to access informatic and telematic resources and become scientific, technical, and economic competitors. She provides an examination of the characteristics and objectives of the BIEF database, its bibliographic utility centers and training programs, the National STI policies and systems, the documentation center on Francophonie, and BIEF publications. In the second paper, "Library Associations and the Advancement of Librarianship in Developing Countries," Stephney Ferguson presents the positive correlation between the stage of advancement of library and information services and the existence of library associations in developing countries, and notes that, even where associations are weak and ineffective, they are recognized as a potential for good in influencing library development. Library associations in Jamaica, the Caribbean, and the Commonwealth are described as examples which illustrate the impact that such organizations can have in developing countries. Reports in the literature that describe the achievements of associations in other developing countries are used to support the evidence presented. In the third paper, "IFLA's Programme ALP: A Progress Report," Birgitta Bergdahl discusses the objectives, program structure, contents, priorities, and future initiatives of the IFLA Program for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World. (MAB)

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BIEF: A North-South Knowledge Transfer Tool	Suzanne Richer, Director BIEF (Banque internationale d'information sur les Etats francophones)
Library Associations and the Advancement of Librarianship in Developing Countries	Stephney Ferguson, Immediate Past President, Commonwealth Library Association. National Library, Kingston, Jamaica
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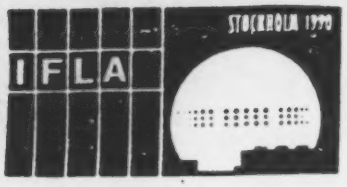

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BIEF: A North-South Knowledge Transfer Tool

by

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SUMMARY

BIEF: A North-South Knowledge Transfer Tool

Information and documentation planning in southern countries is closely linked to knowledge transfer on a North/South and a South/South axis. The Francophone Summit has recognized the vital importance of scientific and technical information (STI) for developing countries determined to acquire the means to fully use the informatic and telematic resources without which a modern society is excluded from scientific, technical and economic competitiveness. BIEF is one such tool dedicated to the transfer of knowledge.

At the very first Francophone Summit held in Paris in February 1986, the heads of state and government of countries using French as a common language recognized the vital importance of scientific and technical information (STI), especially for developing countries. Aware of the technical and technological deficiencies of their documentation environments, southern Francophone countries have expressed, for over a decade, their will to equip themselves, not only with documentation policies and systems, but also with the means to fully use the informatic and telematic resources without which a modern society is excluded from scientific, technical and economic competitiveness.

Creating, restructuring and modernizing documentation facilities requires a strong political will backed by long-term planning and the knowledge and experience of documentation professionals. It is acknowledged by all countries, and perhaps more particularly by those in the South, that piecemeal political decisions in the field of information and documentation tend to paralyze national co-ordination and to favour the erection of irrelevant political monuments that fail to meet specific needs; these political institutions are evidence of empire-building that dry up and divert to their own advantage considerable amounts of funding that governments should be using to enrich existing

libraries. This stagnation discourages professionals, who are sidelined to activities of secondary importance, and contributes to the brain drain from southern countries. Without trained, motivated and recognized professionals, it is doubtful that a government, however powerful, will succeed in setting up documentation infrastructures, policies and systems that will be effective, efficient, cost-effective, modern and independent.

Obviously, then, successful structuring of documentation management in developing countries depends on (1) principles of resource sharing that will provide broader access to information and documentation, (2) co-ordination of technical and professional standards that will improve co-operation and (3) the development of documentation models that will promote the autonomy of these states in the field of documentation. However, structuring scientific and technical information (STI) management is closely linked to more intensive training and development of professionals. This is the essence of a recommendation made to the Third Francophone Summit, held in Dakar in May 1989, by an international task force on structuring documentation management systems in southern countries.

The transfer of technology cannot be achieved without a transfer of knowledge based on respect for cultures. While transfers of knowledge, information and documentation from North to South are routine, documentation exchange among southern countries is a reality that northern countries must acknowledge. This new force fuels the synergy of information.

BIEF[1] is one tool dedicated to the transfer of knowledge. It was created as a result of a recommendation made at the First Francophone Summit, held in Paris in 1986.

Initiated by Canada and implemented by a team of librarians and library technicians from Canada's Secretary of State Department, BIEF was developed initially as a bibliographic database recording documents pertaining to the Francophone Summit member states.

Following the Second Francophone Summit, held in Quebec City in 1987, BIEF's mandate was extended so as to transform this descriptive and static database into a network of human, documentary and technological resources oriented towards communication, liaison and the transfer of information and documentation in a resource sharing environment. Dynamism and synergy were quickly evident in the BIEF network of partners; in fact, it is this network of more than 150 partners from

across the Francophonie which generates the exchange of information and documentation and achieves the distinct documentation model known as BIEF. The Third Francophone Summit, held in Dakar in 1989, gave BIEF a significant role in structuring and modernizing documentation systems management in developing countries.

The BIEF database

The database is built from the bibliographic records extracted from the documentation units of the Francophonie. At the moment, approximately 150 national, academic, administrative, governmental and specialized libraries in northern and southern countries have contributed over 300,000 records, half of which have been processed. BIEF's 40,000 main records (obtained from the extraction process) are collective, that is, they include the location codes of all the documentation units holding a given document. This characteristic of the BIEF database makes possible a document delivery system and encourages the circulation of documentation among Francophone countries.

The primary objective of the database is the recording of all bibliographic data relating to Francophone Summit member states and the restitution of these records to the countries

concerned. This principle encourages the development of national catalogues and national bibliographies in southern states, taking into account the fact that developing countries do not have access to information and documentation available on their countries, let alone copies of the primary documents.

A decision made at the Second Francophone Summit extended BIEF's mandate to include the restitution of documents to the countries concerned - either original documents or reproductions on a variety of modern media. BIEF is thereby contributing to repatriation of the cultural heritage of developing countries.

Of the 40,000 bibliographic records, 25,000 are on-line and 15,000 are in processing. Since December 1987, all Summit member states have access to BIEF on the medium of their choice (such as microforms, catalogue cards or magnetic tape). Technical difficulties inherent in southern countries' infrastructures and the prohibitive costs of telecommunications still hinder on-line access. The database is updated every six months. It is available on request and without charge to all member states and to all contributing agencies and institutions. The database is distributed to interested organizations outside Francophone countries.

The data input is done in a decentralized mode. The jointly managed system of data entry and processing, set up in October 1989, is shared among BIEF's eight regional bibliographic utility centres (Burundi, Gabon, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Senegal, Tunisia and Vietnam), a data entry and processing centre at PANGIS, the Pan-African Network for Geological Information System in Paris, and another in Canada, which is responsible for the bibliographic standardization of cataloguing data provided by all network contributors. BIEF has never imposed Canadian formatting standards for cataloguing data, but has always promoted the international standard of UNESCO. For example, the communication format developed for BIEF is an adaptation of the Common Communication Format (CCF) developed by UNESCO's General Information Program (PGI).

Bibliographic utility centres

As a result of the extended mandate given to BIEF by the Second Francophone Summit held in Quebec City in 1987, a network of regional bibliographic utility centres has been set up. BIEF defines a bibliographic utility centre as a documentation unit in a southern country that is already operational and whose mandate is extended to include the provision of regional documentation services. There are eight

of these centres; their responsibilities are (1) to co-ordinate a regional documentation network, (2) to participate in joint management of the database and (3) to promote BIEF programs and activities. A feasibility study is being conducted on the possibility of creating two other regional bibliographic utility centres, in Madagascar and Zaïre. Bibliographic utility centres are linked by a facsimile network and this South/South linkage is an important step toward their autonomy in the field of documentation.

Training programs

BIEF offers two types of professional training and development: the first focusses on BIEF's direct activities and covers topics such as the communication format and joint management of the database; the second addresses the specific needs of BIEF partners by providing funding for seminars and workshops organized by the École internationale de Bordeaux, UNESCO and international associations such as IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

In August 1989, BIEF created the FABADEF, or Fédération des associations de bibliothécaires, archivistes, documentalistes des États membres du Sommet francophone (federation of

associations of librarians, archivists and documentalists in Francophone Summit member states). The FABADEF's objectives are as follows: to enhance the status of information science and archival science professionals, to encourage the emergence of national associations and improve management of existing ones, particularly in developing countries, and to promote networking among these associations.

National STI policies and systems

The electronic organization of data ensures a cost-effective management of scientific and technical information (STI). However, the situation and needs of the countries concerned must be taken into account when documentation systems are being set up. Using geo-documentary profiles of Summit member states drawn up by seven specialists from southern countries, BIEF has proposed to Summit decision-makers a plan for structuring and modernizing documentation infrastructures in the developing countries. These initiatives are undertaken in co-operation with other international organizations whose mandates include documentation, such as UNESCO.

Le Centre de documentation sur la Francophonie (documentation centre on the Francophonie)

BIEF also manages a documentation centre on the Francophonie; the centre retrieves and lists bibliographic records on any publication of interest to the Francophonie. The centre responds to information requests from senior officials in Francophone countries, collects data on specific topics of current interest, compiles bibliographies and contributes to the production of specialized directories.

BIEF publications

BIEF publishes a newsletter entitled L'ÉCLUSE, which has a circulation of 2,000 and is distributed in all Francophone countries as well as to organizations interested in its activities. The newsletter provides coverage of administrative, technical and professional matters for BIEF partners; it is also a promotional tool that helps publicize BIEF and its network, accomplishments and plans for the future.

Technical publications prepared and widely distributed by BIEF include the second edition of the Répertoire des partenaires BIEF (directory of BIEF partners), published in 1990, and the

second edition of the Répertoire des sigles et acronymes en usage dans la Francophonie (directory of acronyms used in Francophone countries), just out. The directory of acronyms was produced by scanning correspondence and documentation from the three Francophone Summits (Paris 1986, Quebec City 1987 and Dakar 1989) and publications listed or held by the documentation centre on the Francophonie. Although this directory, containing approximately 2,000 entries, is mainly of use to officials in Francophone countries, its target audience includes editors, translators, terminologists, revisers, librarians and documentalists, who must often decipher acronyms and unravel connections among organizations known almost exclusively by their acronyms.

BIEF has also prepared Profils géo-documentaires des États francophones (geo-documentary profiles of Francophone states) with a view to achieving a better understanding and assessment of the informatic and telematic compartmentalization that limits the transfer of information on a North/South and a South/South axis. Knowledge of documentation environments makes it possible to identify certain problems related to the production and dissemination of STI. Acknowledging that the volume of STI produced in French is limited, BIEF has focussed its analyses on the dissemination, on easily transported media, of information and documentation; this is in response

to a request made at the Quebec City Summit, which recommended the gradual elimination of technological barriers governing conditions of information transfer. Telematic barriers and incompatibility of computer equipment are partly responsible for this state of affairs. Knowledge of specific technical data is of use in implementing projects to structure and modernize documentation facilities and services. To obtain reliable technical profiles, BIEF asked seven specialists to examine the informatic and telematic infrastructures in southern countries. The seven consultants, all from southern countries, analysed a specific geographic region divided to take into account political, economic, geographic and documentation realities, such as natural and de facto partnerships in documentation. The study covered the identification of software, hardware, documentation networks and telematic networks. These geo-documentary profiles of Francophone states are updated continually and the second edition of this document has just been released.

Since six countries are members of both the Francophonie and the Commmonwealth, and since common STI denominators between the two geo-political blocs could be identified, BIEF has produced a parallel document entitled the Commonwealth Geo-Documentary Profile, published in early 1990. Also at the beginning of the year, the BIEF tabled with Francophone Summit

authorities a document entitled Rapport d'activités 1986-1989 Paris-Québec-Dakar (report on activities resulting from the Paris, Quebec City and Dakar Summits, 1986-89).

In conclusion, the documentation philosophy and model of BIEF take into account the strategy and the complementarity of mandates and programmes of international organizations operating in the Francophone world. BIEF's program makes available a rich fund of skills and experience, and its professionalism and collegiality are put to good use by governments and organizations concerned with the success of their documentation activities. For example, BIEF is called upon to administer the following activities: (1) setting up a bibliographic database on the management of major rivers in Zaïre, Niger, Gambia, Senegal and Cameroon and a regional interstate network of scientific and technical information on the development of waterways; (2) at the request of the Institut d'énergie des pays ayant en commun l'usage du français (energy institute of countries using French as a common language), developing a multilateral system of information on energy in Francophone countries; (3) at the request of the Secrétariat des peuples francophones (secretariat of Francophone communities), compiling a bibliography on the Francophonie in North America; (4) seconding a documentalist on a part-time basis to the UNESCO

Clearinghouse to study the needs of Francophone African countries; (5) at the request of ACCT, the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique, preparing a Répertoire des banques/bases de données produites par les Sommets francophones (directory of databanks and databases sponsored by the Francophone Summits); and (6) providing funding to PANGIS to sponsor membership in its regional network of specialized scientific and technical information for the national geological services of Tunisia, Chad, Zaïre and Madagascar.

Capital costs are considerable, and it is now clear that the funding capacity of sponsors in northern countries is declining at the same time as the needs of southern countries are rapidly increasing. What can be done in a field such as documentation, where the acquisition, processing and distribution of information are so costly? A contemporary solution is networking in an information and documentation resource sharing environment. BIEF is one link in this impressive documentation chain whose strength is recognized.

1. A "bief" is a mill race, defined as the channel in which runs the current of water that drives a mill wheel. Figuratively, BIEF can be said to be a channel through which the current of data and information, a living element like water, flows towards the member countries of the Francophone network linked by this channel.

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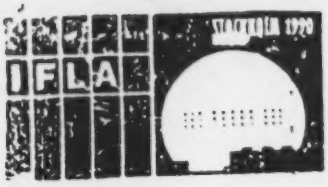

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RT Management of Library Activities

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LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

by

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ABSTRACT

There is a positive co-relation between the stage of advancement of library and information services and the existence of library associations in developing countries. Even where associations are weak and ineffective, they are recognized as a potential for good in influencing library development. Library associations in Jamaica, the Caribbean and the Commonwealth provide examples which illustrate the impact which such organizations can have in developing countries. Reports in the literature which describe achievements of associations in other developing countries are used to support the evidence presented.

It is suggested that IFLA's Core Programme "The Advancement of Librarianship in Developing Countries" should consider the promotion of national library associations as one of its main strategies. The suggestion is also made that the "Round Table on the Manangement of Library Associations" should develop models based on successful examples in developing countries which could be adopted for use particularly in very small countries. The writer who is the Director of the National Library of Jamaica has served as President of the Jamaica Library Association and is a member of its executive committee. She is also a member of the Executive Council of The Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) and is the Immediate Past President of The Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) where she held the office of Vice President from 1983 to 1986 and President from 1986 to April 1990.

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LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Effective formal associations are essential in professional occupations for a number of reasons. They facilitate the development of plans and the active pursuit of programmes, designed to improve the welfare and status of their members. They promote the advancement of projects and activities and the development of institutions in support of their areas of specialization. They reinforce the philosophy of the profession and provide codes of behaviour for members. They offer a unified front to the wider world and ensure the continued growth of the profession, by regulating training and attracting high calibre recruits to the field.

This applies to the profession of librarianship where the success of library associations in metropolitan countries is well known. The American Library Association (ALA) and the Library Association (UK) have been in existence for over 100 years and their impact on the advancement of librarianship in their respective countries is well known. The contribution of library associations in other industralized countries is also well known but relatively little is known of the effect which such associations have had in areas of the world which are commonly referred to as "developing countries". These countries account for 50% of the earth's geographical area and 51% of its population. They vary in climate, size, language, culture, stage of economic development and the natural resources which they

possess, but they also share certain characteristics. These include a common historical pattern of colonial domination with the majority only gaining political independence over the past 30 to 35 years. They are dependent on agricultural based economies and exhibit relatively low levels of technological application. Transportation and communication facilities are usually poor, the rate of illiteracy is relatively high, as is the birth rate, and the majority of the population is under 25 years of age.

In these countries, the overwhelming pre-occupation is with securing improved economic performance to raise the quality of life. Governments, therefore, focus attention on agriculture and food production, water supplies, communication, education, health care and housing. Quite often, the impact which information can have on social and economic development is not readily recognised, and so, the importance of providing information and increasing its availability and accessibility through libraries receive little attention.

One can therefore readily understand why the library and information system is not as advanced as that of industrialized countries, why library professionals are relatively few, or even why the library associations are relatively weak and their impact is not well documented. This is not to say, however, that library associations have not made significant contributions to the advancement of librarianship in developing countries. As a matter of fact, I believe that there is a positive correlation between the stage of advancement of library and information

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services and the existence of effective library associations in these countries. I will go even further and say that library associations, wherever they exist, and however ineffective they may be, have the best potential to favourably influence the advancement of librarianship. They represent the difference between something and nothing, and, in their absence, there is no other group willing and able, to make representations to government and stimulate interest in the provision of libraries.

My belief is based primarily on the knowledge gained through personal involvement with the national library association of a developing country, the insights gained over the past ten years through my participation in a regional library association, as well as my work with an international library association.

Let me reassure you that this is not intended to be a "how we do it good" paper in the associations with which I have been involved. What I hope to do, is to use these associations as examples, in order to describe the work of library associations at different levels - the national, regional and international, in an effort to illustrate the impact which they can have in developing countries. In addition, I will draw on published reports which describe the activities of other library associations, to reinforce my argument that the advancement of librarianship in developing countries is directly related to the work of library associations.

NATIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

The Jamaica Library Association (JLA)

Back in 1949 when this Association was established, it had fifty-nine (59) members. Of this number, there were only six persons with formal training and certification, and of the six, there was only one Jamaican.

The objective was to unite all persons engaged in or interested in library work and to provide opportunities for their meeting together to discuss matters relating to libraries. It served to encourage and promote the active development and maintenance of libraries; to promote a high standard of education and training of library staff; and to do whatever may improve the status of librarians, and to promote a wider knowledge of library work in order to form an educated public opinion on libraries.

The Association is now forty (40) years old and currently boasts over three hundred (300) members, the majority of whom are trained librarians. In the beginning, considerable effort was directed at developing strategies to create an awareness of the role of libraries in the society. One strategy involved the holding of public meetings in different areas of the country. Another encouraged influential members of the community to join the Association and used them to provide leadership, alternating with library staff annually as President of the JLA. These persons were then able to use their important positions of influence to focus the attention of the population on the need for libraries and to win support from government and the private

sector for the development of libraries. In these early years, the Association organised classes to enable library staff to qualify as professionals under the British system of education for librarians. Later, as a result of strenuous representation made by the JLA and other groups to the University of the West Indies and the Jamaican Government, a regional library school to serve the English-speaking Caribbean was established in 1971 with the help of UNESCO. This school now offers a three-year Bachelor's Degree Programme and a Master's Programme in Library Science.

Standards have been formulated for school libraries, college libraries and special libraries, and a guide for teacher librarians has been produced. The Association played a leading role in influencing government to put into effect legislation which led to the establishment of the National Library of Jamaica, and it continues to make representations on the enactment of legislation relating to copyright and legal deposit.

The Association has over the years given significant support to the programmes and projects initiated by UNESCO including support to the efforts which led to the introduction of the NATIS concept in the region when a regional conference was organized in 1975 to publicise the concept. This regional conference has had far-reaching effects leading to the adoption of NATIS in Jamaica and other Caribbean countries.

The Association has promoted libraries through National Library Weeks, National Book Weeks and other such activities, and thus,

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has helped to create an awareness of the role and importance of libraries, which has led to increased demand for books and libraries. The effect on the public library service is evident in the extensive network of over 200 hundred static service points, its fleet of twenty-four (24) book-mobiles which provide a mobile library service to rural areas, and a comprehensive schools library service.

The increased awareness of the role of libraries has also led to the development of special libraries and there are now over 100 such libraries in the island. The Association has, in addition, consistently made representations to government and other employing authorities on matters concerning the status, conditions of service and welfare of library staff. It publishes a quarterly newsletter - **The JLA News** -which keeps its members informed, occasional publications and an annual **JLA Bulletin** which carries articles of professional interest.

The JLA's involvement in international professional activities has been impressive. Over the years, it has organized a number of international conferences and meetings and hosted conferences of regional and international professional organizations such as: The Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL), The Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA), and the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) which incidentally was launched in Jamaica in 1971 as well as the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL). Except for four years in 1979 to 1983, the Jamaica

Library Association has hosted the COMLA Secretariat since its foundation in 1972, and its members have held important leadership positions in IASL, COMLA, ACURIL and CARALL.

The Association is now emphasizing continuing education programmes and the acquisition of a permanent Secretariat and Headquarters in order to further consolidate its work.

OTHER NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The accomplishment of JLA is not unique. Other national associations have been effective in the the areas of education and training for librarians, promoting library legislation, developing and promoting library standards, issuing professional publications, promoting programmes developed for libraries by UNESCO, promoting library activities and creating awareness of the role of libraries in nation building.

Articles in the various volumes of COMLA Newsletter, a quarterly publication of the Commonwealth Library Association, the IFLA Journal published by K. T. Saur, and International Library Review published by Academic Press have been particularly useful in recording the work of national library associations. The efforts are numerous and cannot all be mentioned but a few examples will suffice.

EDUCATION

In the field of education and training, COMLA Newsletters record the numerous efforts by library associations in developing

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countries in organizing training programmes for library staff. "Library Training in Cyprus [1]" and "LAS Postgraduate Diploma course in Library and Information Science"[2] describe the efforts of the Library Associations in Cyprus and Singapore in organizing educational courses for library staff while "A new library school planned in Kenya"[3] outlines the role which the Kenya Library Association has played in the establishment of library schools for the training of para-professionals and professional.

LEGISLATION

In the area of library legislation, Josephine Reis Fang [4] records the efforts of the Phillipine Library Association, and the Nigerian Library Association, as well as associations in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Barbados, Puerto Rico and Senegal in influencing or assisting with the implemention of legislation.

The stand taken by one library association on the effect of government's policy on the state of the nation's libraries is aptly reflected in "A Press Release from Papua New Guinea Library Association[5] in 1977.

PUBLICATIONS

Many examples of publications exist. These range from Newsletters, Bulletins and Library Directories to "A Manual for Small Libraries" and a "Textbook for Library Assistants" published by the Malawi Library Association[6].

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

In the international arena, the success of the 1980 IFLA Conference which was held in a Developing Country for the first time is noteworthy, so also are the activities of Kenya Library Association which hosted two International Conferences in 1983, [7] and the IFLA Annual Conference in 1984. Such activities contributed enormously to advancing the cause of libraries in the host countries.

These are but, a few examples of the activities of National Library Associations and the impact which these have had on the advancement of librarianship in developing countries.

REGIONAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

ACURIL

ACURIL is now twenty-one (21) years old, having been founded in 1969. As the name implies, it covers countries in the Caribbean Archipelago, and in addition, includes countries in Latin America and Central America as well as the states of the United States of America which border on the Caribbean Sea. Alma Jordan's article in IFLA Journal[8], gives a brief description of the organization. Its aim is to facilitate the development and use of libraries, archives, and information services and the identification, collection and preservation of information resources in support of intellectual and educational endeavours through the Caribbean. It also aims to unite and strengthen the library, archival and information professions in the region and to promote co-operative activity. Its membership is drawn from

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three (3) categories: personal, institutional, and organizations, such as Library Association.

All four language groups, Spanish, French, Dutch and English are fully represented in the Association which covers twenty-six (26) countries. It meets in a different country each year and accomplishes its work through Standing Committees centered on broad activities such as, acquisitions, microfilming, indexing, planning and research, and library education. It also works through Special Interest Groups which reflect the concerns of public, schools, special and national libraries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The main achievement of this regional association is in the area of co-operation. It promotes the co-operative production of retrieval tools, such as, bibliographies and indexes, and has made a significant impact on the continuing education programme for library professionals in the Caribbean through the special workshops which it organizes, and the papers presented at the annual conferences. In addition to the above, Jordan [9] states that the annual conferences have achieved success in "promoting the library and information profession in each host territory by bringing public and private sector officials into closer contact with and better recognition of the role of information services in national development". Undoubtedly, ACURIL through its activities has contributed to the advancement of librarianship in the region.

OTHER REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Other regional organizations have made equally important contributions to librarianship in their regions. The work of the Congress of South-East Asian Librarians (CONSAL) is adequately described by Hedwig Anuar [10] and reports of their meetings appear in various COMLA Newsletters.

Anuar [11] states that the publications of CONSAL provide a "wealth of information on library development in the ASEAN region". CONSAL has served as a catalyst for the production of national bibliographies and national directories of libraries for each country. It collaborated with others in the production of the "Master List of South East Asian Microforms [12] and the Directory of Library Suppliers and Equipment [13]". The Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians (SCECSAL)[14] and the Standing Conference of Pacific Librarians (SCOPAL) [15] with membership drawn from developed and developing countries, are making similar significant contributions to library development through the promotion of co-operative activities and through their publications programmes. CONSAL, SCECSAL and SCOPAL may not be library associations in the true sense but they work with and through library associations, and have influenced the advancement of librarians in the regions.

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

COMLA

COMLA was founded in 1972 with a membership of twenty (20) national library associations of the countries formerly known as The British Commonwealth. It now has 52 members, comprising national library associations in forty (40) countries and major library institutions in twelve (12) countries which do not yet have national associations. In addition, it offers affiliate membership to institutions and other organizations in Commonwealth countries and subscriptions to its Newsletter to non-Commonwealth bodies. COMLA lists among its objectives, the support and encouragement of library associations in the Commonwealth, forging, maintaining and strenghtening of professional links between librarians of the Commonwealth, promoting the status and education of librarians, promoting library provision, and the improvement of libraries in Commonwealth countries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

COMLA has successfully influenced the establishment of library associations in several countries where none existed before. The latest country being The Gambia, where The Gambia Library Association was launched in 1989. COMLA has developed training modules for para-professionals, particularly in developing countries. It has organized seminars and workshops on subjects of interest to its members. Its most recent area of concern has been the promotion of the concept of rural libraries and resource

centres which is of particular relevance to developing countries. It has succeeded in influencing the adoption of library legislation in Cyprus and it supported the Kenya Library Association in its representations for a Library School. The seminars and workshops which it has organized in different regions has focused attention on the host Library Associations, resulting in increased recognition for their work.

COMLA has contributed to the literature of librarianship in developing countries by encouraging the preparation of papers for workshops and seminars and through its regular quarterly newsletter which records the developments taking place in member countries. Particular worthy of note, is the fact that COMLA's membership is drawn exclusively from national library associations, and that nearly 90% of these associations are from the developing countries.

COMLA's greatest achievement perhaps lies in the fact that, it promotes the establishment of national library associations. It is these associations which in turn undertake the programmes being promoted by COMLA, such as the establishment of rural libraries and resource centres, or the proposed project to promote the development of parliamentary libraries.

THE IMPACT OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

Regional and International Associations

Regional and international associations have influenced librarianship and the development of library associations in

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developing countries but their success depends to a great extent on the presence of National Library Associations which provide the support for the implementation of programmes developed at the regional or international levels.

National Association

National library associations act as pressure groups, agitating for the development of legislation, educational opportunities for its members, improved conditions of service, increased salaries, and in general, promote the advancement of librarianship in their own countries.

Quite often, it is these national library associations which promote the programmes which have been developed by organizations such as UNESCO. International Year of the Book observed in 1972 and the International Literacy Year now being observed, have received the support of many library associations. Even now the formulation of national information policies is being promoted by many library associations. "Towards a National Information Policy for Zambia" [16] describes the efforts of the Zambia Library Association in securing a national information policy and appropriate library legislation. Many similar reports of the efforts of national library associations exist. Sometimes the tale is one of near frustration, as continuing efforts over the years bring very little result. The important thing, however, is that library associations in developing countries are creating and maintaining an awareness of the need for libraries and are influencing improvements in librarianship.

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It would be naive to think that the national library association of all developing countries are effective and successful. Some are better organized than others, and therefore, are likely to be more successful than others. Indeed, some of the reports in the literature reflect the frustration of writers on the apathy of the membership of national associations and the little progress which has been achieved in some countries.

Writing in International Library Review Phiri, [17] bemoaned the future of the Zambian Library Association. You will note, however, that it is this same library association which in 1989, reported on its efforts to secure a national information policy and library legislation for Zambia [18]. The point I am making, therefore, is that there are periods when library associations may be ineffective, they have their "ups and downs", but they still have the potential to influence the development of librarianship in their countries.

Devi Pakkiri[19] writing about the progress of the Zimbabwe Library Association had this to say:

"The history of the Zimbabwe Library Association is in fact a history of library development in this country". This is in effect true of many developing countries and suggests that support for national library associations should be a priority with IFLA's newest Core Programme if it is to achieve its objective.

It may well be that the core programme "The Advancement of Librarianship in Developing Countries" (ALP) should adopt the promotion of national library associations as one of its chief strategies because the evidence is clear, that progress in library and information services in developing countries is positively influenced by national library associations.

Governments in developing countries by themselves, even with the best intention will not concentrate resources on library and information services unless there is strong pressure to do this. The leadership of institutions such as national libraries, or university libraries may not be able to secure improvements, except within the narrow interest of their own concerns. National library associations, however, create the awareness amongst populations which can in turn pressure governments.

IRASET Paez-URDANETTA [20] summarises the problems which face many library associations in developing countries. He lists the following:

a) Inexistent or nominally existent;

b) Self-marginalization from the governmental activities in the information sector;

c) Self-marginalization from the training programmes in the information sector;

d) Low level of national, regional and international integration;

e) Low or inexistent involvement in research and publishing;

f) Dissociation from other professionals coming to the sector;

g) Inefficiency in promoting the profession and improving the economic and working conditions of the information labour force;

h) Inefficiency in promoting the notion of information for development, reading habits, the collection of preservation of national documents, the modernization of services and the use of information technology.

It is these problems which the Round Table for the Management of Library Associations (RMLTA) and IFLA's Core Programme on ALP must address in order to make national library associations more effective, and thus, promote the advancement of librarianship in developing countries.

Perhaps, RMLTA has a pivotal role to play in ALP by promoting the establishment and growth of national library associations, particularly, in small countries where library professionals are few. It may be desirable for models to be developed, based on the experience of successful associations in developing countries. These could suggest appropriate types of constitutions and indicate the kinds of activities and programmes which can be undertaken even in very small countries. By so doing, this RMLTA could make a significant contribution to the advancement of librarianship in these countries.

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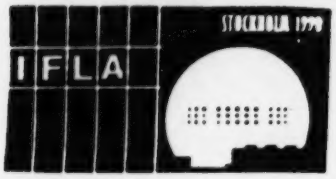

Division:

Section/RT:

ALP PROGRAMME

125-ALP-1-E

IFLA'S PROGRAMME ALP : a progress report

by

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IFLA'S PROGRAMME ALP

- A Progress report

At the IFLA conference in Paris last year I had just been appointed project manager for the ALP project and I had the pleasure of discussing with you my new assignment. IFLA:s Programme "Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World" had been launched at the IFLA conference in Nairobi in 1984 as a new core programme but was still in search of realistic objectives, of a well defined structure and of a host institution, and was consequently also without sufficient funding. That's why IFLA, as you know, already in 1987 had endorsed an initiative from the Nordic countries to set up an international focal point for the ALP Programme. After many turnabouts this initiative resulted in the project which I have now completed for IFLA on behalf of the Swedish Library Association and which has been financed by the Swedish International Development Authority.

The terms of reference for the project were formulated by IFLA HQ, and were the following: (Overhead picture nr 1). You have in your conference maps my proposal concerning the future of the ALP Programme with all details. What I am going to present today is only a brief summary of my proposal and some new information considering the immediate future of the ALP programme - and the results so far of my fund-raising efforts.

First of all, let me start by stressing that my considerations and proposals are a result of a dialogue with IFLAs Third World representatives which started at the Paris meeting and has continued

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during the year, for instance with special ALP-meetings with the three regional standing committees at the regional offices in Bangkok, Dakar and Sao Paolo.

Objectives

Let me first show you the objectives of the future ALP programme and comment on some keywords: (Overhead Picture nr 1). It is well known that access to scientific and technical information is very important for the economic and technical development of a nation. But there is also a growing insight that development is not only a question of economic resources, of investments, or of agricultural production. The prerequisites of development are to be found in the political and cultural environment. Nowbody has expressed this conviction more clearly than Leopold Senghor in his book 'Ce que je crois':

"il s'agit de mettre l'accent sur la culture, sans répudier, pour autant, l'économie ni la politique. Pourquoi l'accent sur la Culture? C'est que, dans la pensée française, la culture, c'est-à-dire la création ou l'esprit d'une civilisation, est la condition sine qua non, mieux, le facteur le plus efficace du développement scientifique et technique, partant, économique et social"

Libraries and information services are indispensible tools in this complicated development process. Information services can become links between the written and oral traditions. Libraries can provide reading material for the newly literate. Libraries can give access to the written cultural heritage. Libraries can provide necessary information for the citizens to make it possible for them to participate in the

democratic process. Libraries and information services give access to the scientific and technical information. And libraries give access to and safeguard the free word.

Therefore the ALP programme must assist in rasing the awareness among governmental bodies and the general public of the potential rôle of library and information services in the development process - perhaps by developing activities to serve the policy makers in their own pursuit of information.

Other important key-words are national initiatives and a systematic progress towards self sufficiency. There is an enormous gap between the rôle that a well developed library infrastructure could play in the Third World and the situation today. Only the governments in the Third World countries themselves can in the long run improve the situation considerably. Investments have to be made in literature, buildings, equipment and in necessary infrastructure such as technology, communications and publishing, and many obstacles of a cultural, political, administrative, technical and professional nature have to be overcome. Libraries share their poor situation with other educational, social and cultural sectors of society. But for the first time in many years there is now hope for a better future with the new prospects for peace and disarmament and the increased insight of policy makers about the significance of education and culture. The Human Development Index which has been recently created by the United Nations Development Programme and which attemps to describe human welfare not in economic terms but in terms of life expectation, literacy etc is one of these hopeful signs. So is the new stress which for instance the World Bank

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puts on welfare and education as important factors for economic growth.

Programme contents and priorities

What, then, can IFLA do to advance librarianship in the Third World? The fact that only the governments in Third World Countries themselves can in the long run improve the situation substantially, does not mean that outside help and support in the form of advisory assistance and economic aid can not be of great help. On the contrary. Many organizations and institutions are in fact giving such assistance.

IFLA has limited means for economic support but being a world wide professional organization it can contribute with its expertise and its machinery for transferring knowledge and support in kind from its members in the industrialized world and its good contacts with other organizations. Last but not least, during the eightees IFLA has built up a structure in the regions which can be very important, indeed, for subregional and regional cooperation.

The future ALP programme should play its role within this international context. It should have a clear identity of its own and should avoid duplicating the efforts of others while cooperating with them and maximizing its multiplyer effects.

The ALP Programme should on the one hand be a catalyst for activities addressed to the developing countries but executed by other IFLA bodies, and on the other be responsible for a group of special programme areas and activities directly belonging to it. These 'ALP

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areas proper' are the following three: (Overhead picture number 3). These are very important development areas for all three regions.

The lack of adequately trained staff is considered as one of the most important factors which is hindering the development of librarianship, and it is also one of the causes of the low status of the profession.

There is a very urgent need in all regions to develop library and information services to the general public. Even in countries with a comparatively good economic situation and a relatively good infrastructure for scientific and technical information the services to the general public are often poor.

Illiteracy is one of the greatest global problems of our time. If radical measures are not taken the numbers will reach about 1000 million in the year 2000. 98% of all illiterate people live in the Third World.

Library services should obviously be essential components in the work of developing and reinforcing literacy. But, to-day this is often not the case. Even where public library services exist, libraries are often not associated with literacy work.

The work of the ALP Programme within these areas will require close cooperation with IFLAs Division for Libraries Serving the General Public and the Division for Education and Research.

But activities in other areas must also proceed as part of the

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initiatives of other IFLA bodies, especially the four core programmes. The ALP Programme will have an important mission in influencing the other professional bodies to concentrate more of their activities on Third World issues. Some of these areas have been thouroughly discussed during the process of formulating the ALP Programme, such as the need to improve document supply and access to documents, a need which has manifested itself in the discussions especially of the African Section. The need to improve bibliographic control was in focus of the discussions at the meeting of the section for Asia and Oceania, whereas questions about how technology can be applied in an appropriate way in different situations and environments, and the great need of action within the area of preservation and conservation have been discussed at all meetings.

Programme Structure

The ALP Programme should not duplicate the existing IFLA structure, and therefore the Programme's relationship to the Division of Regional Activities and IFLAs regional offices should be redefined. The regional offices should gradually be reorganized and reinforced and could develop into regional centres, each with its regional advisory committee with a more long term commitment than the present regional standing committes have. The regional centers should be able to develop their activities in an independent way.

The ALP Programme will also have an international focal point with an international advisory committee representing the three regions. The most important tasks of the international focal point will be to support and encourage the regional activities, and especially to be of

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help when it comes to project formulation and fund raising. The international focal point will be located at Uppsala University Library in Sweden for the first five-year period but I propose that IFLA after that period should look at the possibility of locating the office into one of the regions.

The Future

I would like to conclude by telling you that the Swedish International Development Authority has decided to finance the ALP project for another period of one and a half year. During this starting period IFLA can build a solid foundation for the future. IFLA should use this time to get a more complete picture of the ambitions in each region, to set priorities for the next Medium Term Period (1992-1997), to produce well formulated project proposals and to get a good picture of different funding possibilities.

The orientation of the ALP Programme stresses the importance of professional cooperation within and between Third World countries. It will be an important ALP activity to encourage national and regional library organizations and therefore one should start now to explore the ways and means of promoting practical and meaningful relations between IFLA and these organizations. One must also start, during this period, to develop a programme cooperation with other organizations such as Unesco, IBBY, The International Reading Association, and others.

In other words -- it is up to all of us -- all IFLA members -- to fill the programme with content and to crete suitable forms of cooperation to this end. This will, no doubt, require a lot of hard work from many

people during the one and a half year to come. But -- if this work is done well -- I have no doubt that the ALP Programme will get a permanent support. As a matter of fact, some of the Nordic national library organizations and libraries have already promised to contribute to the financing of the International Focal Point in the future, and Uppsala University has decided to support the programme with 100 000 SEK a year for travel -- in addition to hosting it.

Overhead picture number 1

* to define realistic objectives for ALP;
* to propose programme contents and priorities;
* to outline the structure and organization of ALP;
* to undertake consultations with future hosts of the programme, including the involvement of Sweden;
* to define the funding sources for the programme and to start preliminary negotiations with potential main sponsors;
* to propose modalities of programme launching, implementation and functioning.

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Overhead picture number 2

3.2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the ALP Programme are to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in the developing countries, so as to enable them to play an active role in national development. Special emphasis will be placed on the creation of conditions likely to contribute towards national initiatives and systematic progress towards self-sufficiency.

To reach these objectives the ALP Core Programme will, in specific terms, assist to:

* Identify the major problems which are hindering the development of library and information services and formulate strategies to adress these problems.
* Develop projects and activities to support these strategies.
* Raise the awareness among governmental bodies and the general public of he potential role of library and information services in the development process and encourage national planning of library and information infrastructures.

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Overhead picture number 3

* Education and training
* Promotion of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas.
* Greater identification and involvement of libraries with literacy programmes.

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